THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been launched from Rabi, 2007-08 in the country. Presently, this Scheme is in operation in 311 districts of 17 States. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) aims to enhance the production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes, respectively by 2011-12.

The NFSM-Rise is in operation in 136 districts of 14 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh (11 districts), Assam (13 districts), Bihar (18 districts), Chhattisgarh (10 districts), Gujarat (2 districts), Jharkhand (5 districts), Karnataka (7 distrits), Kerala (1 district), Madhya Pradesh (9 districts) Maharashtra (6 districts), Orissa (15 districts), Tamil Nadu (5 districts), Uttar Pradesh (26 districts) and West Bengal (8 districts).

The NFSM-Wheat is in operation in 141 districts in 9 States *viz.* Bihar (25 districts), Gujarat (4 districts), Haryana (7 districts), Madhya Pradesh (30 districts), Maharashtra (8 districts), Punjab (10 districts), Rajasthan (15 districts), Uttar Pradesh (38 districts) and West Bengal (4 districts).

The NFSM-Pulses is in operation in 170 districts of 14 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh (14 districts) Bihar (13 district), Chhattisgarh (8 districts), Gujarat (11 districts), Haryana (5 districts), Karnataka (13 districts), Madhya Pradesh (20 districts), Maharashtra (18 districts), Orissa (10 districts), Punjab (7 districts), Rajasthan (15 districts), Tamil Nadu (12 districts), Uttar Pradesh (19 districts) and West Bengal (5 districts).

The districts for the implementation of NFSM have been identified based on some criteria. For NFSM-Rice, districts which have more than 50,000 ha area under Rice and productivity less than State average were identified. For NFSM-Wheat, the districts with irrigation coverage more than 50% under Wheat and productivity less than State average were identified. Similarly for NFSM-Pulses, existing larger area under Pulses, potential for area expansion through inter-cropping and replacement of rainfed upland paddy and rice fallow and the irrigated area under crops were taken into consideration for identification of districts.

The NFSM programme is not under implementation in respect of the States/UTs as they do not fulfil the criteria indicated above.

Organic food

3392. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that foodgrains and vegetables can be grown without chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, what step Government is taking to familiarize the farmers about it;

(c) whether Government is also aware that organic food is healthy since there is no residues of pesticides and so far better in taste and quality;

(d) if so, whether Government is taking any step to switchover to organic food; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme of "National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF)" is under implementation since October, 2004. The scheme has components on training of farmers on organic farming, field demonstrations on organic inputs and farmers fairs and creation of awareness through seminars/ exhibitions/publicity through print and electronic media.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organises and support awareness programme, seminars etc. in different States where there is potential to grow organic product for export.

Under National Horticulture Mission, assistance is given to farmers for adopting organic farming, organic certification and setting up and Vermi-compost units.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal for complete switchover from conventional to organic farming. However, Government is promoting organic farming particularly in low chemical input use rainfed areas and hill States.

Need to revoke the ban on lakhodi dal

3393. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested for revoking the ban on lakhodi dal by conducting proper tests on the effects of consumption of lakhodi dal (Lathyrus sativus) through Hyderabad-based National Institute for Nutrition (NIN);

(b) if so, Government's response thereto indicating by when the reports from NIN is expected;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are large quantity cultivation and consumption of lakhodi dal is happening in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there will be no need of import of pulses if ban is revoked and allowed to bulk cultivation, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A request has been received in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India from the Government of Maharashtra for lifting ban on the sale of Khesari Dal (Lathyrus sativus) imposed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad has submitted a proposal for conducting a study using goats as animal model for approval of the Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision on Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). The study would commence after the receipt of the approval of CPCSEA and may take about 2 years time to complete. However, initial data from the study would be available after 6 months.

(c) and (d) Lakhodi dal is cultivated and consumed in various parts of the country. The area under lakhodi dal (Lathyrus sativus) in the country during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 has been as under:—

Year	Area
	(in lakh ha)
2003-04	7.09
2004-05	6.41
2005-06	6.26

(e) and (f) The production of lakhodi dal in the country particularly in Maharashtra may not be sufficient to bridge the gap between the demand and domestic production of pulses as the current production of lakhodi dal is far less than the total import of pulses. Further, the import of pulses in the country is mainly of tur, lentil, gram and urd.